Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Dating violence is a reality for many young people, and an issue that many are unaware of; and,

Whereas, One in three young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence, with one in five in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened, or coerced by a partner, and breakups can be a time of even greater risk even when a relationship was never physically abusive; and,

Whereas, Young people can choose better relationships when they understand that healthy relationships are based on respect, and learn to identify early warning signs of an abusive relationship; and,

Whereas, Elimination of dating violence must be achieved through cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities; and,

Whereas, Dating Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 2010 as

DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and continue to work for justice and compassion for all victims of dating violence.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State